

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A key securement comprising:

a key;

a key ring; and

a key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture extending through the first sidewall;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture extending through the second sidewall;

an outer wall extending between the first and second sidewalls to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that ~~the~~ an opening in the head remains aligned with the key cover only by the key ring passing simultaneously therethrough wherein the outer wall having ends that are spaced apart from the first and second edges of the first and second sidewalls, respectively; and

a tactile feature defining a rear contact plane integrally formed on the plane of the first sidewall, said tactile feature secured to the first sidewall throughout the rear contact plane, wherein the first sidewall, the second sidewall, the outer wall, and the tactile feature are all formed of a single material of a metal.

2. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a geometric shape on the first sidewall.

3. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a triangle, a square, a parallelogram, a star, a cross, a house icon, an animal icon, a vehicle icon, and a human icon.

4. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is raised above the plane of the first sidewall.

5. (Previously presented) A key securement comprising:

a key;

a key ring; and

a key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture extending through the first sidewall;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture extending through the second sidewall;

an outer wall extending between the first and second sidewalls to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that the opening in the head remains aligned with the key cover only by the key ring passing simultaneously therethrough wherein the outer wall having ends that are spaced apart from the first and second edges of the first and second sidewalls, respectively;

a tactile feature defining a rear contact plane integrally formed on the plane of the first sidewall, said tactile feature secured to the first sidewall throughout the rear contact

plane, wherein the first sidewall, the second sidewall, the outer wall, and the tactile feature are all formed of a single material of a metal;

wherein a geometric shape is raised above the plane of the first sidewall; and

further comprising a second geometric shape depressed beneath the plane of the first sidewall.

6. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a raised treatment along the first edge protruding outwardly from the plane of the first sidewall.

7. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 6 wherein the edge treatment is selected from the group consisting of: a repeating row of three-dimensional geometric shapes, a barbell, and a braid.

8. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 1 further comprising a second tactile feature integral with a portion of said key cover selected from the group consisting of: the second sidewall and the second edge.

9. (Previously presented) The key securement of claim 8 wherein the tactile feature and the second tactile feature are identical and in opposition.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A key securement comprising:

a ~~first~~ key having a first opening therethrough, said ~~first~~ key encompassed by a key cover according to claim 1;

a second key having a second opening therethrough, said second key encompassed by a second key cover according to claim 1 wherein the second key cover has a different tactile feature relative to said first key cover; and

[[a]] said key ring of claim 1 simultaneously engaging the first key opening, the first key cover, the second key opening and the second key cover.

12. (Currently amended) A key ~~cover~~ securement of claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

casting molten metal into a mold having a void complementary to said key cover of claim 1;

allowing said molten metal sufficient time to solidify into a key cover casting; and
polishing said casting.

13. (Currently amended) A key ~~cover~~ securement of claim 12 wherein the molten metal is selected from the group consisting of a pure or alloyed form of: aluminum, iron, brass, silver, tin, and zinc.

14. (Currently amended) The key ~~cover~~ securement of claim 12 produced by a process further comprising the step of: having a textural surface treatment to said key cover.

15. (Currently amended) The key ~~cover~~ securement of claim 14 wherein the textural treatment is selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.

16-24 (Canceled)